

For that reason, a national commission is appropriate and necessary to complement the commemorative programs and activities undertaken by the Commonwealth of Virginia's Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation. The national commission will assist in the development of Jamestown-related programs and activities, support scholarly research and publications, facilitate marketing and fund-raising efforts, and further encourage heritage tourism. These activities will expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the founding and early history of Jamestown. It will also perpetuate the memory of the first permanent English-speaking settlers of Virginia and the United States.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT. I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4907, legislation to establish the Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission. Mr. Speaker, this bill was introduced by our late colleague, Herb Bateman, who represented Jamestown. Jamestown is located in the First Congressional District of Virginia, and since we are talking about Jamestown, I think it is appropriate to note that Herb always called his district America's first district.

This bill authorizes the Jamestown Commemoration Commission that will head up the preparations for the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, which will be celebrated in 2007. Jamestown was not only the first permanent English colony but it also became the first capital of Virginia. The first legislative assembly was held in Jamestown; and it was there that the idea of common law, common customs, and common language began and continues to this day.

Mr. Speaker, planning for the 400th anniversary has been under way for several years and establishment of a national commission will complement the ongoing State efforts as well as extend national and international significance to this historic anniversary. The State has been conducting roundtables throughout Virginia to get citizen input to design a statewide commemoration. Efforts are also being taken to continue the rebuilding of ships which brought the 1607 colonists and which were originally reconstructed for the 350th anniversary, as well as rebuilding the Jamestown fort and the Native American village.

Mr. Speaker, passage of this measure will ensure that the 400th anniversary of Jamestown is recognized at a national level for its historic significance and contributions to the founding of our country. It is also a fitting manner in which to honor our late colleague, Herb Bateman. Before yielding back the balance of my time, I want to commend the Members of the staff of Vir-

ginia's First Congressional District for their tireless efforts in making sure this bill moved forward. The constituents of the First Congressional District have been well represented by the staff since the untimely loss of Herb Bateman, and it is in large part because of their efforts that this bill is before us today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this measure.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to recognize the work of particularly Dan Scandling, Herb Bateman's chief of staff, and Julie Newell, whom I know helped put this together, and the other staff members who put this together. This is a fitting legacy for Congressman Bateman who started this.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this measure.

Mr. SISISKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my late friend and colleague, Herb Bateman, to speak in support of legislation that was near and dear to his heart, H.R. 4907, legislation to establish a Federal commission to coordinate activities related to the 400th anniversary of the establishment of the colony at Jamestown.

Someone once said that a land without ruins is a land without memories, and a land without memories is a nation without history. Thanks to the National Park Service and the foresight of the people of Virginia, the memory and history of Jamestown are alive and well.

Jamestown is to the United States what the historical centers of Rome and Athens are to the people of Italy and Greece.

The Jamestown visitors center, the replicas of the ships that brought the colonists to the new world, and the Jamestown fort and native American village are more than just tourist destinations, they are symbols of our democracy and values.

Consider that Jamestown was Virginia's first capital and held the first legislative assembly, leaving a legacy of common law, customs and language that we rely on today.

This 400th anniversary commemoration, to take place in 2007, is probably as historically important to our Nation as the bicentennial celebration of 1976. The progress made in planning events for 2007, are due in no small measure to the people of Virginia.

They've held roundtables throughout the State to solicit input from every corner of the commonwealth, and they've worked in conjunction with the National Park Service to conduct archaeological, historical and scientific research.

Creating a national commission is the last piece of the puzzle which will ensure that the Jamestown commemoration becomes a truly national celebration.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4907.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1600

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBBONS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROSLEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROSLEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. YOUNG of Alaska addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MILITARY RETIREE HEALTH CARE IN THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. SHOWS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, today President Clinton is expected to sign the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2001. This will help promote a first-class military, and it is a great victory for our military retirees because it takes a giant step in correcting an injustice suffered by our military retirees and their families. The defense bill provides pharmacy benefits and extends TRICARE to retirees beyond age 65 as a supplement to Medicare, and fulfills the promise of lifetime health care to America's eldest military retirees.

Retirees joined the service with a promise of lifetime health care; but right now TRICARE, the military health care plan, ends at age 65. Unlike all other Federal retirees, military retirees get Medicare but nothing else if they cannot afford supplemental insurance; and many retirees under age 65 are not covered due to serious flaws in the TRICARE program.